THE PORT FOLIO

ENLARGED.

BY OLIVER OLDSCHOOL, ESQ.

"VARIOUS, THAT THE MIND
OF DESULTORY MAN, STUDIOUS OF CHANGE,
AND PLEAS'D WITH NOVELTY, MAY BE INDULGED."
COWPER.

VOL. II.] [No. 1.

PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16th, 1802.

ORIGINAL PAPERS.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

THE AMERICAN LOUNGER,

BY SAMUEL SAUNTER, ESQ.

No. I.

EVERY periodical writer has, I believe, experienced the difficulty of fixing upon an appropriate title for his work: it has been expressed by many, it has been felt by more. In the present day, this difficulty is experienced in a tenfold degree, for so numerous has been the tribe of adventurers in this department of literature, that almost every name, expressive of the character or the writings of a desultory essayist, has been anticipated. What a variety of appellations has been assumed, from the Tatler of Isaac Bickerstaff, Esq. down to the Port Folio of Oliver Oldschool, Esq.!

Under these circumstances, the attempt to invent a name for my paper, which should be perfectly original, was utterly repugnant with my love of ease; my only difficulty was, to discover a title among the fugitive writers of Great-Britain, which would best suit my habits and dispositions, and I could then easily appropriate it, by the addition of the epithet American. With a rapid glance, I reviewed the catalogue, and found objections to almost every name which had been assumed. The airy levity which seemed connected with that of the "Tatler," would have suited me tolerably well; but I have, for some time, endeavoured, and I flatter myself, not wholly without success, to form myself upon the model of some of the fashionably *nonchalant* characters, which may be met with in some modern novels. Besides, with all submission to the superior knowledge of Isaac Bickerstaff, the title seems so appropriate to the fairer part of the creation, that I was afraid of being supposed, in this revolutionary age, to be actuated by a wish of encroaching upon one of the inalienable and imprescriptible rights of woman.

The Spectator, I was informed, had been already adopted; the Guardian conveyed unpleasant sensations to my mind, as more than four months must elapse, before I shall be emancipated from the controul of an unpolished being, who, under that appellation, has presumed to curtail many of my elegant expenses. To the "Rambler" I objected, because, to adopt the style of the author himself, it "savoured of loco-motion." The "Idler" I had almost determined to adopt; but I was terrified by observing, that his very idleness is instructive; and, independently of the opinion so justly and universally entertained, that the world cannot be mended or instructed, I am the last person in the world that would be impertinent enough to undertake such a task. But, not to detain my readers, by a minute exposition of my motives for rejecting all other appellations, I was at length determined to adopt the title of the American Lounger, by remarking its coincidence with my disposition, my habits, and my name.

Thus much for the appellation which I have adopted: I shall now follow the example of many of my predecessors, in giving an account of myself, and of my qualifications; and, "upon that favourite topic, on which the dull can expatiate with brilliancy, and the sterile with copiousness," I shall be as brief as possible.

With respect to my personal appearance, I may remark, that I have overheard more than one young lady, in a half whisper, acknowledge, that I had "most *elegant* eyes." With this remark, I have been, hitherto, not a little gratified, 'till the unlucky appearance of an essay in the 49th number of the Port Folio, with the signature of Restorator, very much abated my self-complacency. As the author observes, that this epithet is occasionally applied to a piece of beef, to a peach, and to many other articles, equally differing in their natures from each other, I must acknowledge, that I have been rather puzzled ever since, to form a definite idea of what the dear creatures mean. I could also repeat many soothing observations upon the *elegance* of my person and dress, were it not for the ambiguity already mentioned. I can assure my female readers, that my attention to the latter circumstance costs me nearly as much time as the duties of their toilet, especially since the happy introduction of wigs saves them the two hours, heretofore appropriated to the hair-dresser. Not that I would have them imagine, that my person is attired with studied nicety; on the contrary, I can honestly say, that it always takes me some time, to give that careless air to my habiliments, which is suitable to the character of a lounger.

With respect to my qualifications, I may observe, that I am a most acceptable visitant at tea-parties; for I have something pretty to say, to each of the fair assembly, and talk sentiment with an interesting simper. I hand a young lady to and from the piano-forte, with an easy air, and applaud her execution, although I can hardly distinguish between the much admired air of "The Cottager's Daughter," and "Go to the Devil and shake Yourself." Add to this, that I always go to the assembly, and to all private dancing parties, to which I am invited; although, in compliance with the example of many of my ingenious brother loungers, I soon profess myself tired of dancing. I frequent the theatre pretty constantly, not to attend to the play, but to join a knot of ingenious young friends, in parading the lobby, with as much noise as possible, talking loud, laughing at the most serious passages in tragedy, and abashing the performers. These traits in my character, will, I trust, establish my claim to the appellation which I have assumed; yet, I must candidly own, that, without assistance from correspondents, the American Lounger will boast but a short existence. From professed indolence, much cannot be expected; but, if each of my worthy brethren, and I may add sisters also, in this city, will only contribute one letter each, upon some fugitive topic, I am confident, that my existence will be more protracted than even that of the Spectator of Great-Britain; and I should not be at all surprised to read, ten years hence, the American Lounger, No. 500.

The plan, therefore, that I propose to myself in this paper, is to take an occasional glance, in which I hope, that I shall be assisted by the friendship of correspondents, at the fleeting topics and manners of the day. It will be, particularly, an object with me, to attract the attention of the fair; and I am not without hopes of assistance, from the pen of many an ingenious female. Their communications would always be received with particular pleasure, and meet with particular attention. I can assure my readers, that I am very good-humoured, and that personal satire, or private malevolence, shall never pollute these papers. Should I be occasionally detected in addressing letters to myself, I may plead the example of preceding writers, and remark, that none can so completely trace all the beauties of a composition, as the writer himself. Should I occasionally draw a character, whether male or female, I would humbly warn any person from appropriating it. It may be ten to one that I may never have heard of persons, the lineaments of whose characters may, nevertheless, be supposed to be traced, with an exactness almost equal to that, with which Stuart would copy their features. I could enlarge upon this subject; but Dr. Smollett has treated it in so admirable a way, and illustrated it so happily, in his prefatory apologue to Roderic Random, that I shall, without further ceremony, conclude my introductory paper, with referring my readers to the perusal of it.

*** Those of our friends, who may be disposed to correspond with SAM SAUNTER, are requested to address their communications to the Editor of the Port Folio, as usual; but to prefix to their contributions the words "For the American Lounger."

REVIEW.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

"Reports of Cases, adjudged in the Circuit Court of the United States, for the third Circuit. By JOHN B. WALLACE. Octavo, pp. 146, Philadelphia: published by Asbury Dickins, P. C. Ustick, printer, 1801."

THE industrious reporter of these cases has, with a very laudable ambition, chosen to commence his professional career, by a history of law cases and decisions, in a tribunal, distinguished for the learning of its officers, and the purity of its justice. It is but too common for young men of genius, destined for the profession of the law, to consider their legal noviciate in a barrister's office, but a genteel retreat for indolence, and who have no object more legitimate, than to while away their awkward hours, in "a calm, middle state of mental and moral inactivity."

The number of those, who have substituted poetry for special pleading, swells the catalogue of British biography; and POPE, with no exaggeration of satire, lampoons that class of *lawless* loiterers,

"Who study Shakspeare—at the *inns of court.*"

With this species of indifference to black letter reading, and professional cares, Mr. Wallace appears to be in no wise chargeable. Without neglecting or contemning polite literature, he has judiciously given his most eager attention to BLACKSTONE; and the good fruits of his diligence

and perseverance, appear abundantly in the volume before us.

As we think our reporter's preface is vigorously written, and as its neatness and perspicuity of phrase gives us the assurance that Mr. Wallace has *mingled* classical with law books, we transcribe it with much pleasure. It will convey, moreover, a very luminous idea of the nature of his design, of the "disadvantages" attendant on his task, of his anxiety for the present, and his hope for the future.

PREFACE.

"BY those who are conversant with subjects of municipal jurisprudence, the *design* of publishing memorials of adjudged cases in the circuit court of the United States, for the third circuit, will, no doubt, be received with approbation.

"Questions on the constitution and laws of the United States, on general commercial law, and the law of nations, must furnish a series of decisions, highly valuable to every juridical officer, and of great importance to the community; and such are the questions which will principally occupy the attention of this court.

"It is only for the *execution* of the task, that I feel anxiety. I am no ways satisfied that this *first* essay will be thought to augur favourably of the reporter. It may serve, however, to soften the rigour of judgment, to know that it has been made under considerable disadvantages, which will not attend upon future efforts: and if, in these circumstances, the present publication should meet with patronage, I shall feel encouraged to proceed, in the hope of arriving much nearer to the point of merit.

"The state of each case will, I think, be found to be accurately given; and the opinion of the court, generally, in the words in which it was delivered; with only such slight departures, in mere phraseology, as to create no variation in the sense. It does not come within the power of any one but the stenographer, to exhibit a copy of an oral discourse, that shall, in every particular, comport with the original. Where the opinions were written, I have been favoured by the judges, with leave to take copies. As to the arguments of counsel, from their nature, they require much compression: where several are concerned, the arguments of all on each side, must be thrown together. In doing this, much of the spirit, and many of the beauties of an eloquent debate will be lost. I have to lament, that it is not within the compass of such compilations, to do justice to the great abilities, which are conspicuous at the bar of the court, in which these cases were decided. All that I can profess to have given on this head, is a correct state of the *points* made by the counsel, and the substance of the arguments on each side. It may be thought, that I sometimes give to the arguments, a cast rather more *forensic* than is usual in the modern style of reporting; and that I too frequently introduce, into the principal report, colloquial and incidental matter. I am not conscious, however, of having indulged this too far; and, where I have yielded to it, I promise myself, it will be found to answer some useful purpose; and to present, if not so much of symmetry, at least a more natural exhibition of the case.

"I have only to add, that, in the *outset* of a great national judicature, it appeared to me proper, not only to record the more solemn sentences of the law, but also to preserve rules of *practice*, and the *course* of *proceeding*. In courts long established, and where the practical forms and principles are well understood, or may be traced to digested systems, the preservation of these incidental cases of a discretionary kind, would not be so important. But, in this court, which must, in some measure, originate a code of practice, points of that nature, when settled, become of considerable consequence.

"Should my design be approved, I purpose to continue a report of the adjudged cases in the third circuit.

"*Philadelphia, October 1st*, 1801."

Mr. Wallace's motto to his book, though, at first, it may appear a circumstance, not of sufficient consequence to justify a particular memorial, yet deserves quotation, for its aptness and propriety. It is from CICERO, and declares a salutary and an eternal truth.

"Optimum est MAJORUM *sequi vestigia*."

The judges of the court, in which these "cases" were "adjudged," are the

Honourable William Tilghman, of Pennsylvania, chief judge,

Honourable Richard Basset, of Delaware,

Honourable William Griffith, of New-Jersey.

The cases reported are, Hammond's lessee against Haws—Penn against Butler—The United States against Duane—the same against King—the same against Moore—Echeveria against Nairac—Ferrer against the same—Duncan against Koch—Hollingsworth against Duane—the same against the same—Bentaloe against Pratt—Cowan against Magauran—Hollingsworth against Duane—Knox and Co. against Greenleaf—Bowerbank against Morris—the United States against Wayne—Boudinot against Symmes—and Hollingsworth against Duane.

It is worthy of an incidental remark, that, in a brief period, no less than *five* of these reported cases are those, in which the *editor of the Aurora* was a party. Law herself seems to hold to this partizan, the language of ULYSSES,

"Peace, factious monster! born to vex the state!"

It is evident, from the fidelity and precision of these reports, that Mr. WALLACE is not neglected by those, whose juridical skill and experience may give sanction and currency to his work. To those, who delight in the progress of enterprize, and the advancement of industry, no less than to law students and practitioners, it will be pleasing to learn, that Mr. WALLACE determines to persevere. His work, modest and humble in its pretensions, may soon reach a "high and palmy state;" and, we doubt not, that future purchasers will have occasion to remember, and apply the "crescit *eundo*" of Virgil.

We cannot conclude this article more advantageously to Mr. WALLACE, than by transcribing the following passage, from a very ingenious critique, originally published in that respectable journal, "The Gazette of the United States."

"The portrait of the cause is, in every case, just to the counsel, honorary to the court, and, as far as can come within the knowledge of a few individuals, perfectly true throughout; and when, in the report, the state of the case, the argument, and the judgment, have these merits, the reporter cannot want the aid of apology. The style of reporting is essentially the same as that of Durnford and East; and the collateral digest of the whole case, which Mr. Wallace has given in the beginning or course of the report, answers many purposes that an index cannot always subserve, while it furnishes, for a common-place book, the point of the cause already dressed. Many of the reports, particularly those of Cowan *vs.* Magauran, the United States *vs.* King, and Hollingsworth *vs.* Duane, are exhibited with singular perspicuity; and cannot but determine the readers to extend that encouragement to Mr. Wallace, which will insure a continuation of the work."

POLITICS.

[Many have complained that, in our last volume, too small a share of our attention was given to POLITICS. As we have enlarged the Port Folio, we shall often render it a magazine of political disquisition, obtained from *principals*, or derived from the *leading* papers of the country. We resume, this week, the New-York exposition of the political imbecility of the president of the United States.]

FROM THE NEW YORK EVENING POST.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED.

NUMBER II.

The next most prominent feature in the message, is the proposal to abandon at once all the internal revenue of the country. The motives avowed for this astonishing scheme, are, that "there is *reasonable ground of confidence* that this part of the revenue may now be safely dispensed with....that the remaining sources will be sufficient to provide for the support of government, to *pay the interest* of the public debt, and to *discharge the principal* in shorter periods, than the *laws* or the *general expectation* had contemplated...and that, though wars and untoward events might change this prospect of things, and call for expenses, which the *impost* could not meet....yet that sound principles would not justify our taxing the industry of our fellow citizens, to *accumulate treasure* for wars to happen we know not when, and which might not perhaps happen, but from the *temptations offered* by that treasure."

If we allow these to be more than ostensible motives, we shall be driven to ascribe this conduct to a deficiency of intellect, and to an ignorance of our financial arrangements, greater than could have been suspected: if but ostensible, it is then impossible to trace the suggestion to any other source, than the culpable desire of gaining or securing popularity, at an immediate expense of public utility, equivalent, on a pecuniary scale, to a million of dollars annually; and at the greater expense of a very serious innovation of our system of public credit.

That these, at least, are the certain consequences of the measure, shall be demonstrated by arguments, which are believed to be unanswerable.

To do this the more effectually, it is necessary to premise, that some of the revenues, now proposed to be relinquished, are, with every solemnity of law, pledged for paying the interest and redeeming the principal of our public debt, foreign and domestic. As to the interest, and such parts of the principal, as, by the original constitution of the debt, are payable by annual instalments, the appropriation is absolute. As to the residue, it is qualified. On the third of March, 1795, was passed an act of congress, which forms a main pillar in the fabric of our public credit....which, maturing and perfecting the establishment of a *sinking fund*, endeavours, with peculiar solicitude, to render it adequate, effectual, and inviolable. By the eighth section of this act, it is provided, "That *all surplusses* of the revenue, which shall *remain at the end* of any year, and which, at the next session of congress, shall not be otherwise appropriated or reserved by law, shall, *ipso facto*, become a part of the *sinking fund*." This fund, by other provisions of the same act, is *vested* in commissioners, *in trust*, to be applied to the redemption of the debt, by reimbursement or by purchase, until the whole shall be extinguished: and the faith of the United States is expressly engaged, that the monies, which are to constitute the fund, shall inviolably remain so appropriated and vested, until the redemption of the debt shall be completely effected.

The simple statement of these provisions goes far to confirm the character, which we have given to the proposition. But a distinct examination of the reasons, by which it is supported, will, when taken in connexion with those provisions, place beyond doubt, its absurd and pernicious tendency.

The first inducement offered for relinquishing the internal revenue, is a *reasonable ground of confidence* that it may safely be dispensed with.

When it is considered that we are in the very crisis of an important change of situation; passing from a state, in which neutrality had procured to our commerce, and to the revenue depending on it, a great artificial increase....with good reason to look for a diminution, and without satisfactory *data*, to enable us to fix the extent of this diminution: can any thing be more rash, more empirical, than voluntarily to abandon a valuable and growing branch of income, of which we are already in possession? Can it be said, that merely "*a reasonable ground* of confidence" is a sufficient warrant for so important a surrender? Surely we ought to have been told, that there was at least a moral certainty of the fact. But even this would not have been deemed enough by a prudent statesman. Nothing less than *experimental certainty* ought to have been relied upon. There was no pressure of circumstances making it proper to precipitate the measure. It would have been ridiculous to pretend that the burden is so heavy as to demand immediate relief, and, without this incentive to relin-

quishment experience ought undoubtedly to have been taken, as the only fit and sure guide.

Not only is it problematical what the present duties on imposts, will, for succeeding years, produce; but it is in a degree questionable, whether it may not be found necessary to reduce the rates. That they are now high, when compared with the commercial capital of our country, is not to be denied, and whether they may not be found too high for a beneficial course of our trade, is yet to be decided by experiment. The latter augmentations of the rates of duty, were made at times, and under circumstances, in the situations of this and other countries, which forbid us to regard past experience as conclusive on the point.

Should it be said, in answer, that the revenues can hereafter be renewed, if, on trial, it shall be found that they have been prematurely abandoned, the decisive reply is, that this is to invert the natural order of just reasoning. Were it now the question, whether such revenues should be created, in anticipation of a possible deficiency, the correct answer would be, let experiment first ascertain the necessity: as they already exist, on a question to abolish them, the answer equally ought to be, let experience first shew them to be unnecessary.

But how can they be unnecessary? Let us grant that the remaining sources will be equal to the purposes enumerated in the message, does it follow that it will not still be wise to retain the internal revenue? Is it not desirable that government should have it in its power to discharge the debt faster than may have been contemplated? Is not this a felicity in our situation, which ought to be improved? A precious item in the public fortune, which ought not rashly to be squandered? But it is not even true that the laws have exclusively contemplated a definite period, for the ultimate redemption of the entire debt. They have only made a determinate provision for its extinguishment, at all events, within a given term of years: but, anxious to shorten the period, they, in the clause, which has been quoted, respecting the surplusses of revenue, have made an auxiliary provision for the purpose of abridging that term. The message, while it goes to impair the efficacy of the principal provision, proposes formally to renounce the auxiliary, and thus to disappoint the provident care of the laws to accelerate the discharge of the debt.

How reconcileable is this with the wanton and unjust clamours heretofore vented against those, who projected and established our present system of public credit; charging them with a design to perpetuate the debt, under the pretext that *a public debt was a public blessing!* It is not to be forgotten, that in these clamours Mr. Jefferson liberally participated! Now, it seems, the tone is entirely changed. The past administrations, who had so long been calumniated by the imputation of that pernicious design, are, of a sudden, discovered to have done too much for the speedy discharge of the debt, and its duration is to be prolonged, by throwing away a part of the fund destined for its prompt redemption.... Wonderful union of consistency and wisdom!

Before we yield our approbation to the proposal, we ought to have a guarantee for the continuance of our peace, long enough to give effect to the leisurely operation of that residue of the fund, which it is intended to retain: else war, which never fails to bring with it an accumulation of debt, may intervene, and we may then rapidly hasten to that period, when the exigencies of government may render it necessary to appropriate too large a portion of the *earnings of labour*. To guard against so unfortunate a result, towards which there is always too great a tendency, in the affairs of nations, our past administrations have evinced a deep foresight, and exercised a truly patriotic care. Unhappy will it be, if any succeeding projector shall be permitted to frustrate their salutary plan.

It has been seen that the message anticipates, and attempts to answer objections to the dereliction of revenue: the answer is, that "sound principles will not permit us to tax the industry of our citizens, to accumulate treasure for wars to happen we know not when, and which might not perhaps happen, but for the temptations offered by that treasure." Unless, however, the *accumulation of treasure* be the necessary consequence of retaining the revenue, this argument is evidently futile. But the president had only to open our statute book to learn, that this consequence is chimerical. All future surplusses of revenue, being already eventually appropriated to the discharge of the public debt, it follows, that, till the whole debt shall have been extinguished, there could be no *accumulation of treasure*....no spoil from that source, to tempt the rapacity of a greedy invader. Here we fix the charge of ignorance of our financial arrangements: to which there can be no alternative, but a deliberate design to delude the people. Between the two, let the worshippers of the idol make their option.

NUMBER III.

HAD our laws been less provident than they have been, yet must it give us a very humble idea of the talents of our president as a statesman, to find him embarrassed between an absolute abandonment of revenue, and an inconvenient accumulation of treasure. Pursuing the doctrine professed by his *sect*, that our public debt is a national *curse*, which cannot too promptly be removed, and adhering to the assurance*, which he has virtually given, that a sponge, *the favourite instrument*, shall not be employed for the purpose, how has it happened that he should have overlooked the simple and obvious expedient, of using the supposed excess of income, as a remedy for so great a mischief?

After all we have heard in times past, it would ill become either the head, or any member of the *orthodox sect* to contend, that a too rapid reimbursement of the debt might be attended with evils. In courtesy, however, this shall be supposed to be urged by some new convert, who has not entirely shaken off the prejudices of former modes of thinking; and it shall be examined, whether this argument will afford a justification of the measure recommended.

It shall not be denied, that the immediate payment of our whole debt, if practicable, would be likely to be injurious in various ways. It would, in the first instance, produce a money-plethora, if the phrase may be allowed, which experience has shown to be inauspicious to the energies, and especially to the morality and industry of a nation. The quick efflux of this money to pay a considerable part of the debt in the hands of foreigners, and to procure from abroad the means of gratifying an encreased extravagance, would, after some time, substitute a too great vacuity to a too great fulness; leaving us to struggle with the bad habits incident to the latter state, and with the embarrassments of a defective circulation. To these, other reasons might be added, which, though equally just and solid, are omitted, as being more liable to dispute.

Though an extreme case is here presented, the immediate reimbursement of the entire debt; yet it must be admitted, that the same considerations are applicable, in a less degree, to a summary, or very rapid repayment, by large instalments. But the answer to all this is, that it would have been full time to adopt preliminary measures against evils from such a source, when experience had realized the danger. Till such time, it is certainly the highest wisdom to continue the employment of a fund, which is already provided, and without overburdening the people, for the all important purpose of exonerating the nation from debt, and of placing it in a condition, with competent resources to meet future contingencies, which may threaten its safety. On the other hand, is it not a mark of the highest improvidence and folly, to throw away an important part of this fund, on the mere speculation that it may possibly be superfluous?

But admitting it to be already ascertained, that the fund is greater than what is requisite to extinguish the debt, with convenient celerity; does it follow that the excess, if retained, must be suffered to accumulate, and that no different method could have been found to employ it, which would have been productive of adequate utility?

Whatever diversity of opinion there may be, with regard to military and naval preparation, for the defence and security of the country, there are some things, in which all well-informed and reflecting men unite. Arsenals, foundries, dock-yards and magazines, especially those containing materials for the construction and equipment of ships, so that, upon the breaking out of a war, there may be a sufficient supply of warlike implements, and of means for the speedy creation of a navy; are by all deemed eligible objects of public care. To provide for these objects, upon a competent, though moderate scale, will be attended with expense so considerable, as to leave nothing to spare from the amount of our present income. To persons unacquainted with the subject, the quantities of several articles on hand may appear ample; but, to good judges, there is hardly any one class of supplies, which will not be thought to require much augmentation. As far as a navy is concerned, the deficiency is palpable.

If dock-yards are to be established in earnest, they ought certainly to be well protected. For this purpose, fortifications of a substantial and durable nature, very different from the temporary shifts hitherto adopted, ought to be erected. And if the president will inquire into the cost of even these trifling constructions, in the instances where they have been managed with all practicable economy, he will become convinced, that the erection of proper works would call for an expenditure forbidding the supposition of a superfluity of revenue.

In addition to objects of national security, there are many purposes of great public utility, to which the revenues in question might be applied. The improvement of the communications between the different parts of our country, is an object well worthy of the national purse, and one, which would abundantly repay to *labour* the portion of its *earnings*, which may have been borrowed for that purpose. To provide roads and bridges, is within the direct purview of the constitution. In many parts of the country, especially in the Western Territory, a matter, in which the Atlantic states are equally interested, aqueducts and canals would also be fit subjects of pecuniary aid, from the general government. In France, England, and other parts of Europe, institutions exist supported by public contributions, which eminently promote agriculture and the arts: such institutions merit imitation by our government: they are of the number of those, which, directly and sensibly, recompense *labour*, for what it lends to their agency.

To suggestions of the last kind, the adepts of the new school have a ready answer: *Industry will succeed and prosper, in proportion as it is left to the exertions of individual enterprize.* This favourite dogma, when taken as a general rule, is true; but, as an exclusive one, it is false, and leads to error in the administration of public affairs. In matters

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* One of the essential principles of government, is "*the honest payment of our debts and sacred preservation of the public faith.*"....INAUGURAL SPEECH.

of industry, human enterprise ought, doubtless, to be left free in the main, not fettered by too much regulation; but practical politicians know, that it may be beneficially stimulated, by prudent aids and encouragements on the part of the government. This is proved by numerous examples, too tedious to be cited: examples, which will be neglected only by indolent and temporising rulers, who love to loll in the lap of epicurean ease, and seem to imagine, that to govern well, is to amuse the wondering multitude with sagacious aphorisms and oracular sayings.

What has been observed, is sufficient to render it manifest, that, independent of the extinguishment of the debt, the revenues proposed to be yielded up, would find ample and very useful employment, for a variety of public purposes. Already in possession of so valuable a resource; having surmounted the difficulties, which, from the opinions and habits of our citizens, obstruct, in this, more than in any other country, every new provision for adding to our public income; certainly without a colourable pretence for there being a grievous or undue pressure on the community..... how foolish will it be to resign the boon, perhaps in a short time to be compelled again to resort to it; and, for that purpose, to hazard a repetition of the obstacles, which have been before encountered and overcome; which, however, gave birth to one insurrection, and may give birth to another? Infatuated must be the councils, from which so injurious a project has proceeded!

But admitting the position, that there is an excess of income, which ought to be relinquished, still the proposal to surrender the *internal revenue* is impolitic. It ought to be carefully preserved, as not being exposed to the casualties, incident to our intercourse with foreign nations, and therefore the most certain.....It ought to be preserved, as reaching to descriptions of persons, who are not proportionably affected by the impost, and as tending for this reason, to distribute the public burden more equitably.....It ought to be preserved, because, if revenue can really be spared, it is best to do it in such a manner, as will conduce to the relief or advancement of our navigation and commerce. Rather let the tonnage duty on American vessels be abolished, and let the duties be lessened on some particular articles, on which they may press with inconvenient weight. Let not the merchant be provoked to attempt to evade the duties, by the sentiment, that his ease or interest is disregarded, and that his capital alone is to be clogged and encumbered by the demands of the treasury.

But who and what are the merchants, when compared with the patriotic votaries of whisky in Pennsylvania and Virginia?

LUCIUS CRASSUS.

[From the city of Washington, we have just received a very interesting pamphlet, intended to expose the enormous evils, which will ensue from the abolition of the present judiciary system. It is our duty to reprint this admirable argument. It will be concluded in an *extra* Port Folio, which will be published on an early day of the ensuing week.]

A FRIEND TO THE CONSTITUTION.

No. I.

To an American, who loves his country, and its present happy frame of government, and ascribes to that frame of government much of the positive good we possess, as well as our escape from those ills, which have, for years, afflicted a large portion of the human race,....who looks to the same source for the surest guaranty of future prosperity, and counts upon it as that from which, if preserved in its purity, the same blessings will flow for his posterity, which have been so amply enjoyed by himself,....any premeditated attack upon the constitution of the United States, which shall endanger its vital principles, and render it less capable of protecting public liberty, and of affording safety to individuals, must cause the most serious alarm. That the great mass of my fellow citizens are of this description, and are truly solicitous to preserve unimpaired, that wise, and, hitherto, beneficial system of civil policy, which now prevails in America, I will not permit myself to doubt. If they can be seduced into measures, which assail the fundamentals of the constitution, and radically change its essential parts, I am persuaded that such melancholy deviations into error must be attributable rather to the fallibility of the human mind, than to an intentional abandonment of principles, it is alike their duty and their interest to maintain. Unfortunately for the happiness and liberty of man, the warmth of discussion in popular governments, produces a zeal, and too often a malignity in party, peculiarly calculated to favour and produce these deviations. Under their influence, so unpropitious to the exercise of judgment, or the dominion of reason, we overlook the prostration of the most sacred principles, provided our political antagonists be prostrated with them. In the triumph of victory, we forget that we are triumphing over the constitution of our country; and, while we speak only of eradicating mischiefs, against which we have been in habits of declaiming, we not unfrequently establish precedents, fatal to the choicest institutions of society.

It is then in the first moments of success, that the honest men of a party, for such there are in all parties, ought to distrust themselves, and examine, with cautious attention, their own measures. That spirit of party, which generally animates an opposition, is no longer allowable, when, ceasing to be a mere opposition, it has become the government of the country, and has acquired the power of dictating the measures of the nation. While new in this opposition, and yet under the influence of those irritations experienced in acquiring it, there is much danger of being still actuated by the spirit of revenge, rather than that of a liberal policy; by the spirit of party, rather than that of the nation. To guard against this danger, which, in republics, has often produced such serious calamities, which has seldom been more imminent, than in the present moment, all those who love real liberty ought, unmindful of former distinctions or animosities, to rally together, round the standard of the constitution, and form one indissoluble band for its protection.

To prove that the times require this virtuous effort, and that the constitution of our country is in danger, needs no other evidence, than the openly avowed plan, formed by persons, high in the new ministerial party, to annihilate the independence of the judiciary of the United States.

If any one political truth has been demonstrated by unvarying experience, it is, that life and property can only be secured under a system of government, in which the judges are withdrawn from that influence, which results from dependence on the will of others, for the continuance in office. There is no proposition, on which the best political writers have more generally concurred, than on this. There is none, on which the judgment of America appears to have been more completely formed. There is none, which the constitution of our country seems to have more cautiously guarded.

How daring, how criminally daring then must be that hand, which can pollute the sacred page containing this principle, so replete with human happiness, so admired by the wise and virtuous of all nations, so approved by the sober judgment of America,....and blot it forever from our code of fundamental law! How completely must the spirit of party, instead of that of the nation, predominate, if such measures can prevail! How entirely must the spirit of revenge have supplanted that of patriotism, if matured opinions, founded on the solid base of experience, are to be abandoned forever, in order to serve the malignant purpose of the moment! How unsafe, how miserably unsafe, must be every other principle of the constitution, if one so important to our happiness, and so strongly fenced in by express provision, in the great charter we profess to reverence, can be offered up a sacrifice to resentments, which ought never to have been felt!

I believe I need not fear contradiction, when I say, that had the dependence of the judiciary been suggested in the convention of sages, which formed our constitution, no member could have been found, who would not with all his powers have reprobated a principle, which puts into hazard the first objects, for which men enter into society, by leaving their persons and their property insecure. In that day of genuine patriotism, when party had not yet unfolded its powers, when faction had not yet erected its crest: when the only effort, without view to men, was to establish wise and correct principles, no man could have been found departing so far from the theories of the statesman, the lessons of experience, and the opinions of his country, as to have maintained the political heresy, that judges ought to depend on the legislature for their continuance in office.

Had such a doctrine stolen into the constitution, offered to the states for their acceptance, we need only examine the several governments they have framed for themselves, to determine what would have been its fate. We cannot doubt but that so pernicious a principle would have been universally execrated; the opponents of the constitution would, throughout our continent, have taken this strong ground: from every quarter of the union, the danger, to which liberty would be exposed, from an enslaved judiciary, would have resounded in our ears: and not all the necessity, not all the other excellencies of that instrument, could have saved it from rejection. For this I appeal to the opinions then entertained by those, who acted either in the general or state conventions, and conjure them by the sacred flame of patriotism, which then glowed in their bosoms, and which cannot yet be intirely extinguished, to examine well the causes, which have changed their opinions, before they yield to that change.

If, at any time before the late revolution in men, I hope not fatally in measures, the abstract proposition, unapplied to particular characters, of creating a dependent judiciary, had been made to the people of America, who would have been found to support it? Who would not, with all his powers, have reprobated a doctrine so fraught with baneful consequences, so surcharged with danger to the dearest rights of man? If the first or second administration could have so deviated from their principles, as to have countenanced such a measure, how would it have been received by those, who, under a third administration, are themselves its patrons? Let their efforts to agitate the public mind on the mission of Mr. Jay answer this question.

What can have produced this ominous change? The very men, who then affected to tremble for the independence of the judiciary, because a judge might be bribed by being appointed to a temporary employment, without emolument, who affected to tremble for the constitution, because a judge entered on the performance of duties he was not forbidden to discharge: now boldly and openly support a measure, which totally prostrates that independence, by making the office dependent on the will of the legislature, and at the same time inflicts a vital wound on the constitution, which explicitly de-

clares the tenure of the judicial office to be *during good behaviour*.

These things require the serious consideration, not only of the wise and good, but of all those, who, from any motives whatever, wish to perpetuate to themselves and their posterity, the blessings of civil liberty.

The subject will be more closely examined in a succeeding number.

POLITE LITERATURE.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

The success of the elegant poems, which have appeared, under the title of The Pleasures of Hope, and The Pleasures of Memory, seems to have encouraged the attempt of an author (Mr. P. Courtier), who has lately published a little volume, called The Pleasures of Solitude. From a perusal of his work, we cannot assign to him so honourable a station in the temple of Fame, as that already occupied by his celebrated predecessors, Rogers and Campbell. He has adopted, in his poem, the stanza of Spenser, a measure which is now read with far less pleasure than the common heroic line, which fatigues, with the repetition of the same sound, and which, we think, has been successfully adopted by two authors only, in modern times, Beattie, in his exquisite poem of The Minstrel, and Sotheby, in his animated translation of Wieland's Oberon. We have not forgotten The School-mistress of Shenstone; but, as this is a perfect imitation, and does not extend to any considerable length, it scarcely constitutes an exception to the remark.

The poem of The Pleasures of Solitude is in three books. We shall transcribe the arguments, as these will give the most adequate idea of the plan of the author.

ARGUMENT OF BOOK I.

Introduction—General design of the Poem—Some effects of Solitude—Nature, Fancy, Solitude—Lord Bacon's observation on the subject of the Poem—Whom Solitude delights—Expostulations with those inimical to Solitude—Distinction between Solitude, as it applies to the virtuous, and as it is apprehended by the dissipated—Conclusion of book the first.

ARGUMENT OF BOOK II.

Solitude promotes Gratitude and Friendship—The concentration and fixedness of the Affections, arising in Solitude, necessary to their strength—Utility of partial feelings—Strictures on Philosophical Universalists—Nature invariable: the Happiness resulting from this order—Solitude soothes the mind, often supplies the want of social resources; it aids the moral feelings, and calms the Passions—Different effects of similar objects, as varied by circumstance: exemplifications of this truth—Conclusion of Book II. that we are indebted to Solitude even for the gratifications which we experience from public Pleasures.

ARGUMENT OF BOOK III.

Nature of Book III—Retrospective thoughts—Youth the happier state—Solitude as it affects Childhood; as it tends to assuage the troubles of maturer life—Affliction—Fame—Solitude by no means local—Improvement—Solitude highly conducive to Piety—Conclusion of the Poem.

In the execution of his plan, the author has been occasionally, but by no means uniformly, successful. The first stanza has a degree of obscurity which is unpleasant.

Some best mad dissonance shall entertain,
In these is tumult or ambition rife;
Other such passions view with sweet disdain,
They love the insipidities of life;
Again, there are whom both its ceaseless strife
And idle vacancies alike disgust;
And some who hourly dread assassin's knife;
For ever struggling in the toil unjust,
These hate the eye of man, and mourn beneath the dust

The second is far more happy.

No exile I, from social converse driven,
Who sing of Nature, Fancy, Solitude;
No surly misanthrope, to whom is given
To shroud where sympathies dare not intrude.
Though I, alas! have borne the buffet rude,
Have dregged the chalice, brimming with deceit,
And known of fortune in her darkest mood;
I from the world but ask some kind retreat,
Where storms remotely frown, and billows vainly beat.

Of the following three stanzas, the first is harsh, but the second and third contain a well-drawn picture.

His was a dogma specious, but confined,
Who of retirement this drear semblance drew
The man secluded, either, far refined,
Claims kin with angel, or, to that vile crew,
Ycleped satanic, must belong; a view
Unworthy this of one, whom vulgar lore
Vainly resisted.....Bacon, who, still true
To science, dared the path untrod before,
And sought, with untired steps, its limits to explore.

Sure, 'twas not Solitude the sage pourtrayed,
But gloomy banishment to wilds forlorn;
Not the calm breezes of the rural shade:
But sullen thought, in love and madness born;
The sad resolves of him, from whom are torn
Life's opening dreams, who hates even human kind;
For whom no carols wake the merry morn;
Nor suits there aught the aspect of whose mind,
Save the dark gathering skies, and rough and howling wind.

And, at such time, O see! by frenzy sped,
The melancholy man yon summit gain,
To the bleak tempest bare his burning head,
Then, like the tempest, scowl upon the plain.
Ah! not to him those kindly pains pertain,
Which heal and harmonize, and renovate;
Known only these to that high-favoured train,
Who, while by nature touch'd, their souls dilate,
Can speed the hour with bliss, and smile at frowning fate.

We occasionally trace a coincidence of thought between Mr. Courtier, and the elegant author of the Task, in the favourable effects of solitude upon the heart. The following stanzas, which represent it as highly conducive to piety, conclude the poem:

In secret best the humble soul may rise,
As grateful incense, to the Eternal Power!
Winging its way above yon passing skies,
To Him, who loves the world-excluded hour.
'Tis now, that streams of heavenly radiance shower
On the misguided thought; now, that the ways
Of chequered Providence no longer lower;
Now that the enlightened eye can firmly gaze
Beyond the precincts drear of this benighted maze.

And whether Spring descend in vesture bright,
Or Summer wanton in a thousand hues,
Or Autumn cast around a mellowing light,
Or leafless Winter moral truth infuse;
Whether in nature's various path we muse,
Or lonely pause amid the city's roar;
Be it in youth or age; the mind pursues
That, which alone shall halcyon smiles restore,
The solitary haunt by foe unharassed more!

Upon the whole, we have perused this poem with some pleasure. The author appears to be a sincere friend to the cause of religion and morality, and though he has sometimes sketched the world in colours of too dark a hue, he uniformly evinces a benevolent design to advance the best interests of his fellow-creatures.

MUSICAL REVIEW.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

In our former articles, under this head, we have principally confined our attention to foreign publications; we shall now chearfully notice a work of this class, which is edited in our own city. The third volume of Mr. Carr's Musical Journal has just commenced; and the three numbers of it, which are already published, give fair promise of the merit which it will be found to possess, when completed. In the vocal section, two numbers have appeared. The first commences with the "Exile of Erin," composed by Mr. Carr; the music of which expresses, with his usual success, the spirit and pathos of a ballad, possest of unusual poetical merit. The scientific hearer will admire, and the common one will applaud, the felicity of the transition into the major key, in the fifth line of each stanza, the return to the minor in the last, and the abrupt singularity of its close. This is succeeded by a pleasing melody of Mazzhingi's, introduced in the comedy of Life; and the number concludes with a canzonet by Hook, which may be numbered among the more happy efforts of one, who, in our opinion, has composed too much for his reputation. The second contains a charming little ballad, called "The Sails are Bent," the song with which Mrs. Merry enchanted us in the Wedding in Wales; the animated and chearful melody of "Each coming Day," sung by Mrs. Jones in Il Bondocani; and a ballad, called "Lady Alice," which we remember to have perused with pleasure, among Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry. If the music of this ballad be modern, we must admire the felicity with which it has been adapted; but we rather suspect it to be an ancient melody harmonized.

Of the instrumental section, one number only has appeared, containing a waltz, by Clementi; which will be an acceptable exercise for the young performer, during the present *rage* for dances of that description.

Mr. Shaw has issued proposals for a volume of Sacred Music. We wish him success in his undertaking; for we are the decided votaries of the OLD SCHOOL in that science. Our ears are soon satisfied with the general run of modern compositions; but we can always listen, with fresh delight, to the impressive combinations of those "mighty magicians of harmony," who are emphatically called "the old masters."

MUSICAL INTELLIGENCE.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

A *new* musical instrument has lately been invented at Paris, by an ingenious German. It is called *The Harmonicon*. It is of a round form, about a foot and a half in diameter, hollow in the middle, and the distance between the two ends about three or four inches. In the upper end, or top, a number of metal bodkins are inserted, from the length of an inch, to seven or eight inches, in progressive proportion. With these are connected a number of brass wires, like those of a piano-forte, and which cover the surface of that end. The instrument is played with a common fiddle-stick. When skilfully touched, it produces the most agreeable sounds, and very similar to the musical glasses. The music is very sweet.

FESTOON OF FASHION.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

The London satyrist is continually making himself and his readers merry, by sarcasm or declamation against *face painting*. But we *reverently* presume, that in Philadelphia, the pure and the pious, where no cheeks are crimsoned but by modest suffusion, or the glow of christian charity, there cannot be the least foundation for the subsequent charge.

In this enlightened age, the visage that time had tinctured with a philomot hue, now assumes the mellow blush of Hebe. Circassia sends her bloom to animate the face of American beauty; exotic blushes are imported, as superior to those suffusions, formerly celebrated by our poets; and *art*,

wonder-working *art*, is the creator of fashionable beauty. Hoary locks and wrinkles are banished, and washes, which render the ladies "*ever fair and ever young*," may be obtained for gold.

These irresistible arms of the ladies are chiefly compounded of ingenious chymical preparations. Mercury, that conqueror of the sons of pleasure, and lead, that destroyer of heroes, form the principal ingredients, with which some of our painted dolls so plentifully *lacker* their skin. Ah! spare us, ye-fascinating matrons, and *ever-blooming* virgins, nor thus encase yourselves in a *coat of mail*, that, at once, allures and destroys.

THE FINE ARTS.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

THIS article is derived, in substance, from a foreign journal. We are induced to insert it, not merely because it describes a beautiful copy from a lovely original, but because it contains a narrative of very extraordinary peculiarities in the human form.

The portrait of Miss Hervey, or, as she is technically termed, The beautiful *Nyctalope*.

The original, from whom this picture has been painted and engraved, by J. R. Smith, engraver to his royal highness the prince of Wales, was publicly exhibited in the course of the year 1800, in Piccadilly. She was 19 years old, of a very elegant form, her eyes of a *sparkling red*, and her hair, which was of great length, of *unparralleled whiteness* and silken texture. Her countenance was described to be remarkably interesting, and her complexion remarkably clear.

Of this lovely lady Mr. Smith has produced a very pleasing half-length portrait, which he has made fully correspondent to the above description, excepting that it displays something too much of *en bon point* for the original. The print is, of course, *coloured* to shew the natural peculiarities of the young lady.

MISCELLANEOUS PARAGRAPHS.

MRS. Shaw, a Welsh lady, lately bequeathed principal part of her property, amounting to 15,000l. to her *house maid*. The heir at law doubted the validity of the will, and endeavoured to prove that the deceased was in a complete state of intoxication, when she executed the deed. This allegation was not substantiated, and the fortunate *house maid*, of course, *sweeps* off the whole of the legacy.

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Among the innumerable stories, related of Dr. Johnson, we believe the following has not been often repeated:....

He was once prevailed upon to listen attentively to a composition of Scarlatti's, at Mrs. Piozzi's. When it came to a period, all, but Johnson, exclaimed *bravissimo, exquisitissimo, charmante, superbe*, &c. Then "it was so beautifully *chromatic*, and so *extremely difficult*." The doctor replied, "I would to the Lord it had been *impossible*."

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The witty author of "Symptoms of the Millenium," the new year's verses of the carrier of the "Connecticut Courant," thus apostrophizes this *fortunate* country:....

O, happy people, happy land,
What can thy bright career withstand!
When "*labour's mouth*" is cramm'd with bread,
When nought is *tail*, and all is head;
When taxes all are swept away,
And "LIVING CHEAP" the only play.
What stupid mortal's head can doubt,
The devil's time is almost out;
That Gog and Magog must retreat,
And own their troops are fairly beat;
And that our country soon will find
A FRENCH MILLENIUM to her mind.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

AFTER some delay, the unavoidable result of new arrangements, No. 1, of the New Series of the Port Folio is submitted to the friends of the Editor, and of a magazine, conducted upon principles neither timid, versatile, nor complying. The brief history of its fortune may be boldly written. It is supported, and always will be supported by the liberality of the catholic, and the energy of the stedfast. It has been, and will be forsaken by many, either captious, or hostile. But neither a subscription, angrily withdrawn, nor the insolence of democratic dictation, will urge a disciple of the OLD SCHOOL to temporize; to court the populace, or to scramble with the pusillanimous; to surrender up the manliness of sentiment; and forfeit the title of consistency; or, by a miserable process, to soften and dilute the ink of his press, till nothing but a weak and watery infusion remain, too indistinct to be looked at, either for brilliancy or use.

By the employment of a type entirely new, which, though small, is of a face beautiful and bold, we are enabled, without any augmentation of price, to give nearly two additional pages of letter press. Hence, the numbers of the Port Folio for a month greatly exceed, in quantity, the ordinary limits of a magazine, and we have the satisfaction, with Mr. Nichols, the conductor of a well-known literary journal, in London, "to give a great plenty of matter for a cheap consideration."

TO THE PUBLIC.

IN future, all *epistolary* applications or communications, for this paper, must be addressed, "To the Editor of the Port Folio, No. 25, North Second Street, Philadelphia," on whom the sole management of the concern has devolved.

Gentlemen of *Philadelphia*, inclined to take in this paper, will please to leave their names, address, and subscription money, with WILLIAM FRY, bookseller, No. 36, Chesnut street, by whom they will be *regularly* and *punctually* furnished with the Port Folio, to whom they will prefer any complaint of negligence, and by whom all mistakes in the delivery of the paper will be rectified. During the past year, the Editor was constantly chagrined by the carelessness of carriers, and the croak of complaint. His city subscribers may rest assured that they will be attended to with courtesy and diligence by Mr. Fry.

Gentlemen throughout the United States, and in British America; in England, or her colonial possessions, will please to apply to the Editor, No. 25, North Second-street, Philadelphia. Their orders and letters will be straightway answered.

No paper will be delivered in the city, nor transmitted to the country, *without payment in advance*.

As the publication of the paper has been delayed until to-day, we shall print *two* numbers the ensuing week. Fifty-two papers will be delivered, as usual, in the course of the year.

For the accommodation of the curious, who wish to please the eye, or the careful, who choose to bind their files, a few copies of the Port Folio will be printed on *superfine paper*, at *six* dollars, the annual subscription.

Our Theatrical review will be resumed next week. "The Drama" will recive a due share of our attention.

EPITOME OF NEWS.

FOREIGN OCCURRENCES.

——On the 29th of October, the KING met both houses of parliament, and opened the session with a speech. He congratulates the country upon her pacification with France, adverts to the adjustment with the Northern powers, and is of opinion that the essential rights of England are secured, and her substantial interests regarded, by the late pacific scheme of policy. In the house of Commons, in the debate on the answer to the speech, an animated discussion was maintained by Messrs. Addington, Pitt, Windham, Sheridan, and Fox. These gentlemen seemed to anticipate an opportunity to give their sentiments upon the peace, and, although the subject was not before the house, Mr. WINDHAM, in his usual bold and explicit language, expressed his strongest sentiments of disapprobation of the preliminaries. As this nervous speech is Anti-Gallican; as it is a *war* speech; as it is a wise one; as it is the honest idiom of an undaunted and prescient legislator; as it is exactly such a speech as EDMUND BURKE would applaud, and Dr. JOHNSON endure, it is proper to present to the public its bolder features. "Mr. Windham said he should have contented himself with giving a silent vote of approbation of the address, had it not happened that some things were dropped, which seemed to imply an approbation of the preliminaries of peace. His friend did not intend it so, but from what he said, he seemed to convey an idea, that all the members of the house approved of that measure; he was desirous to give no countenance to opinions, to which he did not assent. This matter being clearly understood, he should have no disposition to say more this night, upon the subject, reserving the opinion he had formed, and the reasons he had to support it with, to the occasion which might regularly call for it, which would, he presumed, be a day appointed for that purpose; but as his honourable friend had gone a little further, and had given his opinion upon the outline of the subject, Mr. Windham said, he must likewise state his, which was, unfortunately, as decidedly against the peace, as that of his friend was for it. He was aware, that to dissent from any such general opinion as that of his honourable

friend, was at all times painful to him, it was still more so, since that opinion was so generally approved of and supported. He could have no delight in being a mourner, in a scene of general rejoicing.....to wear a countenance of sorrow, while others seemed to sparkle with joy.....to sink into despair, while others were lifted up by hope, was a singularity not to be envied, nor should he be longer in assigning his reason for it, than would be necessary in order to be understood. In his view of things, which might, perhaps, be a mistaken one, there was no cause for rejoicing at the peace we were about to have; he foresaw that this rejoicing might be turned into bitter lamentation: this he said, because he thought that the advantages, as some people called them, which this peace would bring with it, would pave the way to the ruin of this country. The general illuminations were to him no sign of comfort, for he saw no reasonable cause for the people of England to rejoice. He must, before he assented to it, ask himself, "Are these the lights of the sepulchre, or the tokens of the knell of our funeral?" Before I put on my wedding garment, I must know whether I am invited to the feast, or the funeral; FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART I THINK THIS PRECEDES THE BITTERNESS OF SORROW, AND THE LAMENTATIONS OF DEATH. Considering the situation in which we now stand, I think that the moment my honourable friends signed this treaty, they signed the death warrant of their country; or, at least, they have given it a blow, which I think it can never recover from. He said, he knew how unpleasant it was to the house, nay, he felt it unpleasant to himself, to dwell upon observations, which were made against his wishes, although dictated by his judgment. He knew the uncertainty of human affairs, and how vain it was in man to attempt to prescribe bounds to the dispensations of Providence, the ways of which were invisible to human sight. He could not tell what changes there may be without and within us; what temper, what spirit, the people of this and other countries may have: what may be done for our political salvation. He did not say we should entertain no hope, for he knew that hope might exist, when reasonable confidence was extinguished; and he knew that exertions ought to be continued, after reasonable expectation was gone; and, therefore, he did not wish the people of this country to despair; but he would say, that upon no view he could take of public affairs, from no principle that he knew induced a reasonable man to act, could he state to himself the way, in which this country could come out of the difficulty, into which this peace would throw it. There was one thing more, which he wished to take notice of: he had long thought there was one way, by which this country could escape from the dreadful effect, which we all apprehended from the gigantic power of France: and that was by preserving the superiority of our commerce. It had appeared to him also, that there was but one thing wanting for France, to enable it to extend its empire, and to become as much the terror of other nations by sea as it had by land, and that was, to extend its commerce; this, in a fatal moment, in his opinion, we had given to France. How our ruin could be avoided he did not know. Others, undoubtedly, entertained hopes; how well founded such hopes were, time would shew. All that he had hitherto heard upon that subject, appeared to him to be either very doubtful, or entirely defective. What might be the effect of what we now saw, no man could know: but he apprehended nothing to us but our ruin. This was nearly all he had to say, and which, he apprehended, was called for by what had preceded it on this occasion; he should not have added another word, if the expression of an "honourable peace" had not occurred to him. It need not have been introduced; it seemed to have been improvidently and unpolitically mentioned: for it was more than was asked. He would not ask for an honourable peace; not that he undervalued the honour of the nation; no, he thought honour one of its dearest possessions, but for the sake of argument, and for that only, he would put it out of the way, and say, in this particular case, "Show me it is a safe peace, and I shall be contented." Now, after saying this, which was certainly his opinion on this peace, whether that was a subject of censure or applause, there was certainly no disapprobation of the present address, implied by what he said, although he had no wish to dissemble any sentiment he entertained; because, if what had gone abroad was true, we were really driven to agree to this peace by necessity. If that was the case, the framers of the peace, on the part of this country, had great merit. We were not to condemn them for what they gave up, but to applaud them for what they had saved; not for Ceylon or Trinidad, but for saving to us Portsmouth or Plymouth, or preserving Ireland to the British empire, and for preventing greater humiliation. If this was really our state, and we made peace from necessity, we must applaud them for the peace, because the value of the peace would then be judged of, not from the thing itself, but from the necessity which gave it birth. That, however, was a subject, which should be discussed hereafter; and the questions would be, how far the peace was a peace of necessity? and what the degree of the necessity was? for nothing, in his apprehension, could justify the putting of the state into such danger, as this peace would, but absolute necessity. This was all he had to say at present upon this subject, except merely to add, that, as to the address now before the house, he concurred with the two gentlemen, who had just preceded him (Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox), in giving it his assent.——Alexander I of Russia, who is called "an universally beloved sovereign," has been crowned at Moscow, and has commenced the exercise of his imperial functions, by several acts of grace and favour.——The captain of the Tripolitan corsair, after receiving from the brave captain Sterret, what BUTLER would call a "magnificent *rib-roasting*," shaped his weary way to Tripoli, where, according to a very summary process, long known in Barbary, he received the bastinado, for suffering himself to be beaten. Flogged at sea, and flogged on shore, defeated abroad, and disgraced at home, this buccaneer has nothing to do but to blow out his renegado brains, and, by way of elegy and dying speech, recite a passage from the well known ballad of "*Jacky Lines*," who, as the learned reader may remember, had the triple misfortune

"To be *catch'd*, and *trapann'd*, and *well scourged for the same.*"

——A violent quarrel happened at Cadiz, between the French general, who commanded the batteries at Algesiras, and the Spanish commandant. The former absolutely *struck* the latter with his sabre, in the public walk. The Spaniard tamely suffered this outrage. O, high minded Castilian, how are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of *thy* warfare perished!——On the authority of "The Glasgow Courier*," and from other respectable sources, we learn, that the debates in both houses of the imperial parliament were anticipated as highly important, on the great question of the necessity, the good, or the evil of the late accommodation between England and France. The opposition, composed of characters of the most resplendent genius, though, heretofore, of the most discordant principles, will be very formidable. The marquis of Buckingham and earl Fitzwilliam are to take the lead against the treaty in the house of lords. Mr. Windham, one of the greatest political characters in England, will move for the amendment in the house of commons, and the celebrated George Canning will be a powerful auxiliary. From the talents, energy, and zeal of these accomplished characters, the most ingenious and powerful arguments against a *bad* peace may be expected.——

* "The Glasgow Courier" is a paper of such excellence, that it deserves more than a transient memorial. Its proprietors and editors are men of consideration, learning and genius. One of its principal writers is a professor in the university. It is well supported by the powers of a literary club, and by the remunerating spirit of an inquisitive and liberal nation.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

——A letter from a member of congress, to his friend in New-York, published in the *Evening Post*, corrects a mistatement, which has been current in most of the public prints. Our letter-writer alludes to a paragraph, purporting, that "*the French convention was before the senate, because of a new article inserted in it, &c.*" but this is declared to be a mistake, which might lead to a dangerous error. It is true that the president, *ex majore cautela*, laid the ratification of the first consul before the senate; but it is equally true, that the senate declared it to be their opinion, that the treaty was fully ratified. It is also true, that in the proclamation, the first consul's ratification, *as translated*, contains a proviso to the effect mentioned in the paper I have just seen; but it is equally true, that in the original, there is no such proviso. The effect of the alterations made in the convention by the senate, last winter, is, indeed, clearly ascertained by the form of expression usual on such occasions, and which, in plain English, means, *It being well understood*, but no new clause, nor any new interpretation of an old clause, is to be found after these words. So far, indeed, was the first consul from inserting a proviso, or any limitation or condition, that what he has added, is in mere conformity to, and confirms what was already done.——A letter from Washington, and from the pen of a *principal*, printed in the New-York Evening Post, contains the following sentiments upon the politics of the president and his party. As no article, which has appeared since the commencement of the session, contains more truth and information, succinctly expressed, we copy it with much satisfaction:....."Things go on smoothly in congress, as yet. Economy of time and money is the pretended order of the day, with the majority; but, notwithstanding these pretensions, you will see, that they have adjourned from Friday until Monday. I do not censure the measure; but mention it merely to shew the difference between *profession* and *practice*. Every measure of the executive departments appears to me to emanate from *one source*. What are called *heads of departments*, may as well be without heads as with; for, I believe, they make very little use of them; performing, as they do, every direction of the prime mover, with mechanical accuracy. Their private judgments appear suspended, and, in the minutest particulars, they act only as they are bidden. As far as my observations have extended, I think I ought to except from the above observations the secretary of state, who appears to me, "a man not fashioned for *these times*." I am more and more convinced, that the great cause which moved the president to address the legislature by *message*, was the fear of submitting his recent conduct to the scrutinizing investigation of the minority of congress. Although the majority of the ministerial members would doubtless vote to whitewash their chief, however sable he might appear, there are, nevertheless, in my opinion, many of the majority who are men of nice honour; who would never sacrifice their reputation for propriety and magnanimity, to flatter any one. Of such, if I mistake not, is Mr. Nicholson, of Maryland,

and Dr. E. from New-York. I am sorry any notice has been taken in the papers, of the grammatical errors, and obscure sentences in the message. There are other points in it, which ought to call forth all the energies of the pen and press, to expose, confute, and reprehend. It is true, some of his thoughts are involved in a labyrinth of words, which he has left to be disentangled by his readers, if they are able....But a truce to verbal criticisms. The promised abolition of the internal taxes will be popular; though it is well known, that three-fourths of them are paid by the wealthy, who can well afford the contribution, and who have never complained of it. But I imagine the object in the measure lies deeper than the mere extinction of these taxes:....The impost duties will probably be lessened one-third by the peace in Europe; and, of course, the receipts of the treasury will not be adequate to discharge all the demands thereon. To what then will congress resort?....Certainly not to the renewal of taxes just abolished. What then ?.....The public funds. You must not start at this idea, but make up your mind for the event, at no very remote period..... Such are my fears ;....may they prove groundless!"——The recent dreadful fires, which have so materially injured the capital of New-England, are supposed to have been kindled by some incendiary. The town officers have proffered a liberal reward, to the detector of this enormous villainy. ——A newspaper commences with the year at Baltimore. It contains bright evidence of talents, usefully directed. The style of the prospectus, the editor's address, and the initial essays, are luminous and forcible, and the object of the undertaking cannot be sufficiently applauded. It is entitled The Anti-Democrat.——The portrait of General Washington, drawn at full length, by that eminent artist, Stuart, a native of Newport, Rhode-Island, has been placed in the senate chamber of the state house in that town. This excellent likeness is said to do great credit to the artist, and the execution is in the first style.——Congress are said to be indolent, or luxurious, during the holidays, and the bustle of business is exchanged for festal pleasure. The mouth of the orator, and the door of the committe room are shut, and even the most vigilant nod over the poppy columns of Albert Gallatin. As during the present pitiful politics of this country, no spirited man will exert himself to varnish over the rottenness of our institutions, a state of oblivion appears to be the one thing needful! Let those, therefore, who are proud and honourable, who love a strong government, a *genuine* independence, and a *protected* freedom, *drug* themselves with many an opiate, or be lulled by the ripplings of the lazy Potomac, into a forgetfulness of recent men, and recent measures. Happy, thrice happy would be even the death-like state of such indefatigable sleepers !.... Hence they could not see the gigantic folly of the time, and hence they could not hear the lying tongues of *patriots*, the bawl of stupid democracy, the gibberish of usurping renegadoes, nor the *unwarlike* alarum of the *militia* drum.——The 22d of December, the anniversary of the landing of our pilgrim forefathers, at Plymouth, in the memorable year 1620, was commemorated at Boston, by upwards of one hundred of their descendants..... The honourable Stephen Higginson presided; and we observe, among the list of distinguished guests, the late president of the United States, Colonel Pickering, John Q. Adams, George Cabot, and Fisher Ames, Esquires. Among the toasts, we note the following:

The liberty of our forefathers, as they have defined it, "a civil, moral, federal liberty."

The federal constitution....May it *govern those*, who *govern us*.

——Some democratical creature, who writes very obscurely, in S. H. Smith's National Intelligencer, the official paper at Washington, speaking of Gallatin's report, declares, in words that Godwin's self might use, that "it will be found to contain *a mass of facts, embracing views* of the past, present, and future resources of the government, that will enable the public, with less difficulty than has hitherto been experienced, to understand distinctly the objects to which the revenue has been applied, and those which at present, or *prospectively require its application.*" It is fortunate for America, that she can obtain from Geneva, a high *treasurer*, with his "*mass of facts*," and such "*embracing views.*"

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

——The editor of "*The Farmer's Museum*" remarks, that "among the great variety of literary works, which are occasionally published, we find the fate of them to vary, not always in proportion to their merits. A fortunate title to some, will ensure the fate of the third or fourth edition, where the intrinsic value of the work is trivial; while another, which is written with genius and ingenuity, and which may not happen to catch the capricious taste of the public, is considered as only literary lumber. Some again are only neglected for a while, till their deserts call them from an unjust oblivion. Amongst the latter, may be classed the Algerine Captive, written by R. Tyler, Esq. a work of much humour and merit, and for which we are happy to see a late and increasing demand." From our partiality for Mr. Tyler, and our conviction of the ingenuity of his mind, we are much delighted with the above information. A second edition of his work, enlarged to two volumes octavo, and published in the style of "Mordaunt," by Dr. Moore, is greatly wanted, and would afford the author an opportunity to extend his chapters, which are now too brief, and fill a fine outline, with very captivatvating colours.——Mr. Thomas Dobson, bookseller, of this city; has just published a second edition, with additions, of "Essays and Notes on Husbandry and Rural Affairs, by John B. Bordley." In the advertisement, the bookseller states, that the first edition of this work having met with a favourable reception from the public, the author has been induced to revise it, and, by many additions, to render the book still more valuable, not only to the practical farmer, but also to private families, where it will prove a very useful companion, furnishing a great number of instructions, which will be found very serviceable in domestic life. From general testimony, we are convinced that this system of rural economics is worthy of the above commendation; and, for the honour of our country, for the benefit of the husbandman, for the profit of the respectable bookseller, and for the reputation of the author, we sincerely wish it may have a very general perusal.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

SONG TO ECHO.

WRITTEN FOR MR. B. CARR.

I.

IN yon deep grove, oh let me stray,
  Unmark'd by any human eye!
There let me keep my lonely way,
  And Echo only hear my sigh.
And, as in pity to my woes,
Her voice more sweet shall whisper every close,
  Yes, Echo, thou may'st hear my sigh.

II.

For thou, like me, wert doom'd to prove
  Neglected love and wounded pride;
Like mine, thy sorrows fill'd the grove,
  When thy belov'd Narcissus died:
He died; and still the lover's woes
Provoke thy voice to whisper every close,
  Yes, Echo, thou, like me, hast sigh'd.

III.

Let no rude sound thy slumbers wake,
  List to the lover's plaints alone,
Then let thy voice the silence break,
  Responsive to the softest tone!
Then, oft as Night's pale Queen shall rise,
To thee I'll haste to break my plaintive sighs:
  Yes, Echo, thou shalt hear my moan.

FOR THE PORT FOLIO.

TO ASPASIA.

The letter *i*, I plainly see,
Unlocks your riddle like a key;....
Except one turn, at which we may
Use with success the letter j.

OMICRON.

SELECTED POETRY.

The style of Shenstone has been so languidly imitated, by the herd of poetasters, that we exult to laugh at his drawling verse, with the author of the following burlesque.

Your *zephyr* I cannot espouse,
  For often my corn he will parch;
And I know that the roof of my house
  Was blown off most sweetly last March.

The cow in my yard, which I keep,
  All night does her calf so bemoan,
That I can't get a wink of good sleep,
  Tho' I'm weary, and lying alone.

Of nymphs and of swains what they say,
  I never could read, but I smil'd,
For my shepherd's at....*Botany-bay*,
  And my dairy maid's *always with child.*

EPIGRAMS.

Gold is so ductile, learned chymists say,
That half an ounce will stretch a wondrous way;
Our metal's base, or else the chymists err,
For now-a-days a guinea won't *go far.*

—

TO A POET.

Unthrifty wretch, why still confine
Thy toil and homage to the *nine*,
'Tis time to bid *the nine* begone,
And now take care of *number* ONE!

—

A wag once hearing a countryman say,
Pray tell me to *prison* the *readiest way*;
There are many *bye-paths*, the punster replied,
But the *highway*'s the road the most commonly tried.

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